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1. (Amended) An intravascular balloon catheter comprising:
a catheter body having a proximal end, a distal end, a guidewire lumen,
and an axially slit passage along at least a portion thereof; and
a first balloon structure comprising a balloon and a passage slidably
receivable over the catheter body and an inflation tube removably receivable in the
axially slit passage.

CANCEL CLAIM 2.

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8. (Amended) An intravascular balloon catheter as in claim 1,
wherein the inflation tube extends proximally from the balloon when the balloon is
disposed near the distal end of the catheter body.

CANCEL CLAIM 10.

CANCEL CLAIM 14.

CANCEL CLAIM 20 AND 21.

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38. (Amended) A method for balloon exchange over a catheter body
having at least a guidewire lumen and an axially slit passage along at least a portion of a
length of the catheter body, said method comprising:
retracting a first inflation tube from or through the axially slit passage to
withdraw a first balloon structure over the catheter body in a proximal direction, wherein
said catheter body remains in place over a guidewire in the guidewire lumen of the
catheter body in a blood vessel; and
advancing a second inflation tube into or through the axially slit passage to
introduce a second balloon structure over the catheter body in a distal direction, wherein
said catheter body remains in place over the guidewire in the guidewire lumen of the
catheter body in a blood vessel.

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44. (Amended) A method for balloon withdrawal over a catheter body having at least a guidewire lumen and an axially slit passage, said method comprising:
retracting an inflation tube from or through the axially slit passage to withdraw a first balloon structure over the catheter body in a proximal direction, wherein said catheter body remains in place over a guidewire in the guidewire lumen of the catheter body in a blood vessel.

45. (Amended) A method for balloon introduction over a catheter body having at least a guidewire lumen and an axially slit passage, said method comprising:
retracting an inflation tube from or through the axially slit passage to withdraw a first balloon structure over the catheter body in a proximal direction, wherein said catheter body remains in place over a guidewire in the guidewire lumen of the catheter body in a blood vessel.

✓ PLEASE CANCEL CLAIM 46.

PLEASE ADD NEW CLAIMS 48-51 AS FOLLOWS:

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48. (New) An intravascular balloon catheter comprising:
a catheter body having a proximal end, a distal end, a guidewire lumen, and an axially slit passage therebetween; and
a first balloon structure comprising a balloon and a deployment shaft, wherein the balloon has a passage which is slidably receivable over the catheter body and the deployment shaft is removably receivable in the axially slit passage of the catheter body.

49. (New) A method for balloon exchange over a catheter body having at least a guidewire lumen and an axially slit passage, said method comprising:
retracting a deployment shaft from or through the axially slit passage to withdraw withdrawing a first balloon structure over a catheter body in a proximal

direction, wherein said catheter body remains in place over a guidewire in the guidewire lumen of the catheter body in a blood vessel; and

advancing a deployment shaft into or through the axially slit passage to introduce introducing a second balloon structure over the catheter body in a distal direction, wherein said catheter body remains in place over the guidewire in the guidewire lumen of the catheter body in a blood vessel.

50. (New) A method for balloon withdrawal over a catheter body having at least a guidewire lumen and an axially slit passage, said method comprising:
retracting a deployment shaft from or through the axially slit passage to withdraw withdrawing a first balloon structure over a catheter body in a proximal direction, wherein said catheter body remains in place over a guidewire in the guidewire lumen of the catheter body in a blood vessel.

51. (New) A method for balloon introduction over a catheter body having at least a guidewire lumen and an axially slit passage, said method comprising:
retracting a deployment shaft from or through the axially slit passage to withdraw introducing a first balloon structure over a catheter body in a proximal direction, wherein said catheter body remains in place over a guidewire in the guidewire lumen of the catheter body in a blood vessel.

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